

Portugal

"New shores deserved mate every bosom gay,
And Centras mountain greet them on their way,
And Tagus dashing onward to the deep,
His gablest golden tributary to pay,
And corn on board the Lusian pilots leap,
And steer 'twixt fertile shores where yet few rustics reap.

"Oh, Christ! it is a goodly sight to see
What Heaven hath done for this delicious land!
What fruit's fragrance blush on every tree!
What goodly prospect o'er the hills expand!"

This delicious land does not always receive
her due meed of praise. Everyone has
heard a good deal of the charms of Italy
(Christians), even of sunny France; but
everybody does not realize that Portugal
is a land of sunniness & ocean-washed
shores. Farnesius is forcious that the
people have a legend of how Noah journeyed
hither from the far east that he might
see the great glory of the Lusian descent
into their western seas; a land where
broad rolling rivers pay their "gold contributary"
to the deep;

Trikoshich & Rodgoritza, to the north & south of
the old boundary; & Antivari, a town on the
Adriatic with a harbour. Besides the
Montenegrin women who do most of the work
for their warlike husbands. - ~~women~~ compelled
to bring their bacon, venison, hides &
wool to Cattaro for exportation, as they had
no seaboard of their own. Cattaro is a
seaport town on the narrow strip of
Dalmatian territory which divides
Montenegro from the Adriatic.

Bosnia & Herzegovina

In mountains region to the north-west,
including the provinces of Turkish Croatia,
Bosnia & Herzegovina have had a
peculiarly turbulent history. The
Turkish conquest of these provinces
was slow & difficult, for more than
two centuries. Herzegovina was the
battle-ground of Christians & Mohammedans.
In 1697 these three provinces were finally
^{formed into the Turkish province of Bosnia}
annexed to Turkey, & since that time
the country has been the scene of almost
constant disturbances & rebellions by
the brave & hardy mountaineers.

On account of the unsettled condition of the
country, it was decided at the Treaty of Berlin
that Austrian troops should for the present
occupy Bosnia & Herzegovina, & that the government
should be in the hands of Austria.

The Bosnians are a tall, strong, handsome people,
though warlike habits, & they do not neglect to
cultivate the lovely well-watered valleys that lie
between

the mountains which nearly cover the country.
Great quantities of grain & fruit are grown,
game & fish abounding, & the country is
famous for its honey bees, its sheep
& goats & its wine.

Every town has its fortress, & beyond the
walled town an rather miserable suburb
inhabited by the lower-class. Sarai-
Bosnia is the capital, & the chief trading town;
Banjaluka is in a beautiful spot, &
has mineral springs; Bosnica has
a great tract in the woods cut down
from the forest-covered mountains;
Mostar has a really handsome stone
bridge.

The Holy Mountains

To the east of the Gulf of Salmine is a
peninsula which stretches out curiously
sheepishly into the waters of the Archipelago.
The most eastern of these is Mount Athos,
a magnificent mountain, rising from
the very sea, in the form of a beautifully
wooded cone, upwards of 1,000 feet high.
Dotted about on its sides are altogether
twenty monasteries, some of them of great
antiquity, & dating back to the reign of
Constantine the Great. Besides the monasteries
there are as many as three hundred
hermitages, occupied by anchorites who
live alone in their cells, except on feast
days, when they join the monks in the
common repast. The population is entirely
male,

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small; no female & ^{was} even allowed to set foot in
the Holy Monasteries ~~and~~ or by an woman etc.
cluded, but note cow, mare, hen, she-cats etc.
ever been admitted within the holy ^{holy} precincts;
~~though~~ all the monasteries ~~surrounding~~
huge tom. cats, imported from the neighbouring
islands. W. Bower, a traveller who lately
visited Mount Athos was asked by a young
monk who had spent his life in its
monasteries. "What sort of human creatures
are women?"

~~Mr. Foster~~ also describes a visit to the still
more remarkable monasteries of Meteore,
in Thessaly, another of the great monastic
of the Greek Church. They are perched
upon high, perpendicular cliffs that may
can only be reached by ladders of rope,
or by a sort of net, into which a manifes-
tis drawn to the up by means of
a pulley windlass. W. Bower says,
"I fired off a pistol to attract the attention
of the monks, when, long before the echo had
died away over Rendles, two or three coulled
heads were thrust out from under the conical
platform projecting from the summit of
the rock. After reconnoitring us for
a moment, the monks drew down what
seemed a strong cable-y net, covering at
the same time a thick rope with an iron
hook at its end. I suggested spread the net
on the ground, & I seated myself in it
cross-legged. No man gathered the meshes
together over my head & hung them on the hook.
The monk who then worked their windlass, &

in about three minutes & a half I reached the summit, - a distance of between two & three hundred feet, swinging to & fro in the breeze, spinning round like a joint of meat roasting before a slow fire. Being landed you lie on the floor a perfectly helpless ball, until the monks undo the meshes of the net from the rock, unroll you, give you a gentle shake, & then help you to your feet."

There are many other monasteries scattered here & there about Turkey, especially about the Balkan range. The largest of these, soon which is a pine ~~surrounded~~
from ever more of Mount Athos, is that called Rila Monastery, about twelve miles from Samokov. A traveller thus describes his visit to this beautiful spot. "At last we approached the great quadrangular building of Rila Monastery - sight indeed! It is built upon a rocky height overhanging a foaming river, on the site of an ancient ruin. A deep & rocky mountain burn snakes its way close to the monastery walls, down to the river below, affords a kind of moat for the great gateway. There sits an Albanian guard in handsome crimson uniform with silver facings, amongst them a few aged monks basking in the sun.

"As we ride under the archway & enter the gate comes a loud clang of bells comes forth, as a peal of welcome, from the high belfry in the centre of the building. Monks are walking in the cloisters around a little tree laden with some of them steps

* Turkey or Europe. - Baker

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steps forward & takes charge of our horses as we dismounted. - A tall dark monk like appears. By the great keys hanging at his girdle I know that he is the steward. He takes us in charge, &c., & soon brings the long galleries into a comfortable room richly carpeted.

It is impossible to describe the scenery of this lovely spot. It must be seen to be appreciated. The monastery, although in ruins, is probably 3,000 feet above the sea, & is surrounded by mountains varying in height from 6,000 to nearly 10,000 feet, which look down into the very courtyard. There are romantic walking mountains, burns, through groves of flowing shrubs & Gilbert trees, pretty plate wreath bushes, ferns & flowers; everything, in fact, to make life enjoyable."

The size of this establishment may be imagined from the fact that it contains houses & cells upwards of 1,000,000 (thousand) pilgrims at one time.

These monasteries of the Greek Church are, throughout Turkey, independent of the Porte, except that they pay a certain annual tribute; but the taxes by which they are regulated are made by Councils of their own, or by the Greek Patriarch; indeed, they are much in the same position as were the monasteries of England in the reign of Henry VIII.

The Albanians

Though Albania still remains under the rule of the Sultan, the inhabitants are

so distinct a race. Now we must - find them
a separate nation. That they are still
subject to the Porte is probably due to two causes;
in the first place, the majority of the people
are Mohammedans, for when, in the fifteenth
century, the Turks succeeded in conquering
these hardy mountaineers, a law was
made which secured the estates of the
population to every ~~son~~^{family} which should
bring upon son in the Mohammedan
faith; & though the Albanians hold
this creed ~~slightly~~ but "the faithful"
treat new virgins, still it forms
a certain bond between them & the Turks.
In the second place, the Albanians are
so warlike, their mountainous country
is so inaccessible, that Turkey has
never attempted to exercise more
than a nominal control over Albania,
& is careful not to offend her hardy
sons who form the best - defence of
Turkey in times of war.

Roughly speaking, the Albanians may
be divided into the Gheghes of the north
& the Yokes of the south. The country of the
Gheghes is full of mountains & deserts, &
dense forests; in fact, it is a great
natural fortification which its hardy &
warlike people are well able to defend.

Even the women are made useful in
border fights; they go about armed,
with a sack containing perhaps two
children on her back, a woman makes
her way to the field to labour, while her

her lord & master is ranging the mountains
in search of game. The features of the
women are coarse from exposure, & both
sexes are extremely dirty in their
persons, seldom changing their clothes until
they drop off, & never washing themselves.
On high days & holidays they cover their
shirt with a very picturesque dress.
They are divided into many clans
which are frequently at war with each other,
their blood-feuds are handed down from
generation to generation. When not engaged
in border feuds, they are chiefly occupied
in making firearms & gunpowder, herding
& stealing large flocks of sheep & cattle, &
collecting skins & fur. The women
manufacture the clothing for both sexes
which consists of coarse kind of flannel.
The men invariably go armed, & a
proud Ghegha may be seen with a long
gun over his shoulder, two as sometimes
three pistols, a yataghan in his belt,
& a crooked sabre by his side. When he
descends to follow the plough, he still
keeps his gun slung across his shoulder,
fiercely, he handles the gun more
cleverly than the plough. Naturally,
the social condition of these people is
very low, this state is fostered by their
frequent blood-feuds. Indeed, the ambition
of the young men is to rival their fellows
in the number of victims they have slain
in these feuds.
Very little power is exerted by the Ottomans

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authorities expect an end to this savage state of society, as they feel has to do it effectively, would be to rouse these mountaineers into rebellion, & thus to lose their valuable aid in the wars of the kingdom. These Ghegues are physically, & ⁱⁿ fact far finer, with the lordly air & independent spirit commonly observed among Highlanders. A certain number of them descend annually from the mountains, ^{to the towns & ports of} Prophetic search of employment as masons, carpenters, bakers, shepherds, &c. in the spring they return to their homes with their earnings. & also as they are at home, they prove pretty good labourers when working in gangs in this way.

The looks of the south differs from their northern neighbours both in appearance & character. Their fair skin & blue eyes contrast with the tawny skin & dark eyes of the Ghegues, as they occupy the plains & the coast. Their habits are more settled & they are more enterprising & civilized. In Turkey most of the general servants used as guides in the country, & messengers in the towns are Albanians.

The chief towns of Albania are, Janina, the chief town in the south, on the banks of a lovely lake, of the same name which is surrounded by lofty mountains, it was a busy & important town, but is now going down. Shkodra upon the lake of Shkodra is the chief town of northern Albania; it has a very trade in wool & sheep, besides, horses, wheat, & other produce sent to Egypt in return for manufactured goods and